

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCA-01 SP-02 L-03 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:SOV:MLEVITSKY:REH

APPROVED BY EUR:SOV:RBARRY

COMMERCE - MRS. HEISS

EUR/SOV:WEDGAR

(SUBSTANCE)

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R 281112Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102272

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, BEXP, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO

1. DEPARTMENT LEARNED UNOFFICIALLY THAT SOVIET CONGEN SAN FRANCISCO HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING TO LEASE OFFICE SPACE FOR FUTURE COMMERCIAL OFFICE. IN MEETING IN DEPARTMENT APRIL 27, OIC BILATERAL AFFAIRS, EUR/SOV, (LEVITSKY) TOLD SOVEMBASSY COUNSELOR KAVALEROV THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THESE ACTIVITIES AND POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY STEPS WERE TAKEN BY SOVIET CONGEN TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES. LEVITSKY SAID THAT IF SOVIET EMBASSY WISHED TO MAKE REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ACQUIRE SUCH PROPERTY, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT, BUT THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES CHANCES FOR APPROVAL WERE NOT GOOD. LEVITSKY MENTIONED SOVIET LACK OF COOPERATION ON SUCH THINGS AS AMBASSADOR'S SUPPORT FLIGHT, HOUSING AND ELECTRICAL POWER IN MOSCOW, EMPLOYMENT OF LOCALS IN LENINGRAD, AND SAID THESE PROBLEMS CREATED

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AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO

GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO REQUEST FOR NEW OFFICIAL
PROPERTY ACQUISITION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

2. IN ANTICIPATION OF FORMAL SOVIET REQUEST, WE WOULD
LIKE TO CONSIDER IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE MIGHT WANT FROM
THE SOVIETS IN RETURN FOR GRANTING SOVIETS PERMISSION TO
OPEN A COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO. ONE POSSI-
BILITY MIGHT BE TO RESURRECT THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING
A US COMMERCIAL LIBRARY IN LENINGRAD OUTSIDE CONGEN
PREMISES, PERHAPS IN THE LENINGRAD BRANCH OFFICE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. SUCH A LIBRARY WOULD BE
SERVICED BY CONGEN AND COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUT STAFFED
BY SOVIETS AND COULD SERVE TO STIMULATE DIRECT CONTACTS
WITH FIRMS AND PRODUCTION ORGANIZATIONS IN LENINGRAD.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S AND CONGEN'S VIEWS ON
THIS, OR ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE FORM OF
RECIPROCITY. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, LEASES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, TRADE CENTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE102272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SOV:MLEVITSKY:REH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0759
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760411/aaaaaiqa.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO
TAGS: OGEN, BEXP, PFOR, UR, US
To: MOSCOW LENINGRAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006